

### **Remarks**

Claims 3, 5, and 7-17 are pending in the application.

### **Claim Objections**

Claim 13 has been amended to correct the step reference. Claim 5 has been cancelled to avoid duplicative claims. Applicants acknowledge the assistance of the Examiner in pointing out these deficiencies.

### **Claims Rejection – 35 USC § 112, second paragraph**

Claim 7 stands rejected under § 112. Applicant's cancellation of that claim obviates this rejection.

### **Claims Rejection – 35 USC § 103(a)**

Claims 3, 5, and 7-17 stand rejected as unpatentable over US2003/0235529 ("Hershkovitz") in view of US Patent 5,624,964 ("Cimini"). This rejection is respectfully traversed in part.

The present application claims priority to a filing date of February 28, 2003. The present invention and the subject reference ("Hershkovitz"), filed June 25, 2002, at the time the invention was made, were both subject to an obligation of assignment to ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company. The subject matter of the reference, which otherwise qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f) and (g) of § 102, should not be used to preclude patentability under 35 USC § 103. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejection.

**Conclusion**

Applicants respectfully submit that they have addressed each of the Examiners' rejections, and that the amendments herein and the remarks addressing the Hershkowitz reference place this application in condition for allowance. Applicants request favorable reconsideration of the application.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this submission should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1330.

Respectfully submitted,

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☒ Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.34

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